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January 27, 2000

Lawrence M. Noble, Esq.
General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL
JAN 27 4 24 PM '00

Re: Matter Under Review 4953 (Congressman Dick Arney)

Dear Mr. Noble:

This office represents Congressman Dick Arney, who received a letter from the Federal Election Commission ("FEC") transmitting a complaint dated December 8, 1999, filed by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee ("DCCC") and denominated by the FEC as MUR 4953. Enclosed please find a Designation of Counsel form executed by Mr. Arney.

The DCCC complaint mentions Mr. Arney, but does not allege that he committed any violation of law. In fact the complaint asks the FEC to conduct an investigation regarding alleged violations by the National Republican Congressional Committee ("NRCC") and three other organizations. In that regard, Mr. Arney is mentioned only in the context of having attended a fundraising event hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Dick DeVos. While Mr. Arney attended such an event, participation does not constitute illegal behavior. The complaint does not suggest that it does nor specify how it can.

For the record, Mr. Arney is not associated with any of the nonprofit organizations mentioned in the DCCC complaint, *i.e.* U.S. Family Network, Republican Majority Issues Conference or Americans for Economic Growth. With regards to the NRCC, he is an ex officio member, as is every member of the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives. However, he is not involved in the daily administration of NRCC. He had no prior

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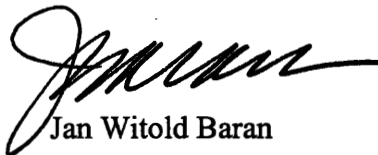
January 27, 2000

Page 2

knowledge of any donation to any of the groups mentioned in the complaint. With regards to the donation of \$500,000 by NRCC to the U.S. Family Network, Mr. Arney recalls first learning of this alleged transfer in public news accounts.

In light of the fact that the complaint does not allege any violation by Mr. Arney, and because there is no discernible basis to allege one, we respectfully request the FEC to dismiss Mr. Arney from this proceeding.

Sincerely.



Jan Witold Baran

STATEMENT OF DESIGNATION OF COUNSELMUR 4953NAME OF COUNSEL: Jan Witold BaranADDRESS: Wiley, Rein & Fielding1776 K Street, N.W.Washington, D.C. 20006TELEPHONE: (202) 719-7330

The above-named individual is hereby designated as my counsel and is authorized to receive any notifications and other communications from the Commission and to act on my behalf before the Commission.

1/12/00
Date
SignatureRESPONDENT'S NAME: Congressman Dick Arney

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

BUSINESS PHONE: _____